

## OPINION 117

TYPE OF *Lithostrotion*

**SUMMARY.**—Under Suspension of the Rules *Lithostrotion* is hereby standardized, with *Lithostrotion striatum* as type species, and is placed in the Official List of Generic Names.

**PRESENTATION OF CASE.**—By Dr. W. D. Lang and Dr. S. Smith:

We wish the species *Lithostrotion striatum* to be standardized as the genoelectotype of *Lithostrotion*. The history is as follows:

*Lithostrotion* Fleming, 1828, History of British Animals, p. 508.

**GENOSYNTYPES:**

*L. striatum*, 1828, p. 508.

*Erasmolithus Madreporites floriformis*; Martin, 1809, Petreficata Derbiensia, pl. 43, figs. 3 and 4; pl. 44, fig. 5.

*L. obliquum*; Fleming, 1828, p. 508.

*L. marginatum*; Fleming, 1828, p. 508.

In 1845, Lonsdale (in Murchison, Geology of Russia, vol. 1, p. 602) mentions four species of *Lithostrotion*, namely *L. emarciatum*, *L. mammillare*, *L. astroides*, and *L. floriforme*. Without definitely designating *L. floriforme* (the only genosynotype involved) as lectotype, he yet discusses and determines the characters of *Lithostrotion* upon *L. floriforme*, clearly implying that he considered *L. floriforme* as lectotype. But if the author's intention is considered, it might be argued that Fleming intended *L. striatum* as genotype of *Lithostrotion*, since he placed it first, and gave it the trivial name *striatum* which, with the name *Lithostrotion*, is an echo of Lhwyd's description "*Lithostrotion sive Basaltes minus striatum et stellatum*," to which Fleming refers in his description of *L. striatum*.

Since, however, a genoelectotype must be deliberately designated ("the meaning of the expression 'select the type' must be rigidly construed"), we are bound to leave both Fleming and Lonsdale with their implied intentions, and pass on to Edwards and Haime, who, in 1851 (Mon. British Fossil Corals, p. 72) deliberately designated *L. floriforme* Fleming, as genotype of *Lithostrotion*; and the fact that thereafter both they, and nearly all other authors, abandoned this ruling, interpreting *Lithostrotion* as if the genoelectotype were *L. striatum*, and including *L. floriforme* in McCoy's genus *Lonsdaleia*, does not invalidate Edwards and Haime's prior pronouncement. *L. floriforme*, then, still stands as the genoelectotype of *Lithostrotion*.

Now the generic type of the coral which, since 1851, has been almost universally, though wrongly, ascribed to *Lithostrotion*, is very abundant in the Carboniferous Limestone and includes several separable forms. The same is true of the genus *Lonsdaleia* of which the genoelectotype is *L. duplicata* (Martin) and which includes the species of *L. floriformis* (Martin), *i. e.*, the *Lithostrotion floriforme* of Fleming and the true genoelectotype of *Lithostrotion*. It is easily seen, therefore, that much of Carboniferous Coral nomenclature is thrown into confusion by giving the correct interpretation to *Lithostrotion*; and that time, labor, and misunderstanding would be saved, if the species *L. striatum*, which the author of *Lithostrotion* clearly intended as genotype, should be standardized as genoelectotype of *Lithostrotion*.

## DISCUSSION.—By Commissioner Bather :

The name *Lithostrotion* in the sense proposed by the writers is so commonly used in textbooks as well as in scientific papers that stability of nomenclature is more likely to be attained by suspending the rules in this instance than by enforcing them. I therefore commend the proposal that *L. striatum* be fixed as genotype of *Lithostrotion* to the favorable consideration of the International Commission on Zoological Nomenclature.

The papers in this case have been submitted to Dr. T. Wayland Vaughan, and his reply is appended herewith for the information of the Commission and as a part of the Opinion :

I have received your letter of January 5 and the papers relative to recognition of *Lithostrotion striatum* as the genolectotype of *Lithostrotion*. I am not able to check all of the references given by Mr. Lang but I can check his reference to Edwards and Haime's British Fossil Corals. I am convinced that the presentation of Messrs. Lang and Stanley Smith is in all respects correct. Unless there is some urgent reason not known to me I incline to agree with the recommendation of Messrs. Lang, Smith, and Bather. I think that you know the standing of these three men. It is very high and Doctor Bather is one of the most distinguished paleontologists living. If their recommendation is not adopted the name *Lithostrotion* will have to replace *Lonsdaleia* McCoy, 1849, which would be unfortunate. I don't like to express a positive opinion until I am entirely sure that I have considered all of the different angles, but I am not inclined to make any opposition to the recommendation you have referred to me.

Notice that this case is under consideration for Suspension has been published as follows :

Monitore Zoologico Italiano, Anno 38, 1927, No. 9.

Nature, vol. 119, June 4, 1927.

Zoologischer Anzeiger, Band 71, Heft 11-12, 28 Mai, 1927.

Science (Query).

The Secretary moves that in accordance with Commissioner Bather's Opinion the Commission adopt the following :

SUMMARY.—Under Suspension of the Rules *Lithostrotion* is hereby standardized, with *Lithostrotion striatum* as type species, and is placed in the Official List of Generic Names.

Opinion concurred in by eleven (11) Commissioners: Apstein, Bather, Chapman, Handlirsch, Horvath, Ishikawa, Jordan (D. S.), Jordan (K.), Stiles, Stone, Warren.

Opinion dissented from by no Commissioner.

Not voting, six (6) Commissioners: Dabbene, Hartert, Kolbe, Loennberg, Neveu-Lemaire, Stejneger.

Motion concurred in by ten (10) Commissioners: Apstein, Bather, Chapman, Dabbene, Horvath, Ishikawa, Jordan (D. S.), Jordan (K.), Stiles, Stone.

Motion dissented from by no Commissioner.

Not voting, six (6) Commissioners: Handlirsch, Hartert, Kolbe, Loennberg, Neveu-Lemaire, Stejneger, Warren.